

FIRE-RESCUE FACILITIES BOND ISSUE BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
8th FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, 33301
THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2016
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

| <u>MEMBERS</u> | | <u>Present</u> | <u>Absent</u> |
|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Thornie Jarrett, Chair | P | 6 | 0 |
| Douglas Meade, Vice Chair | P | 5 | 1 |
| Allan Kozich | A | 1 | 5 |
| Steven Mayer (arr. 6:05 p.m.) | P | 2 | 4 |
| Patrick McTigue | P | 6 | 0 |
| Frederick Nesbitt | P | 4 | 2 |
| Doug Ruth | P | 4 | 2 |
| Frank Snedaker | P | 5 | 1 |

Staff

Alan Dodd, Assistant Public Works Director
Captain Robert Hoecherl, Fire Chief
Timothy Heiser, Deputy Fire Chief
Scott Bayne, President of Fire Fighters Local #765
Brigitte Chiappetta, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Jarrett began the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

• **Roll Call**

As of this date there were 8 appointed members to the Committee, which means 5 would constitute a quorum. It was noted there was a quorum at the commencement of the meeting.

Communication to the City Commission

Motion made by Mr. Nesbitt, seconded by Mr. Snedaker, that the Fire Bond Committee expresses its concerns with the progress and costs of the three remaining fire stations to be built. We are concerned about discussion that FS #13 may be refurbished rather than rebuilt as proposed by the Fire Bond approved by the voters in 2004. Therefore, we ask for a meeting with the City Manager to express our concern to get more detailed information that has been requested but not forthcoming. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

II. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- **May 14, 2015**

Motion made by Mr. Snedaker, seconded by Mr. Nesbitt, to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2015, meeting with the following corrections:

➤ p. 3, last paragraph, second sentence: "Antioch" should be "Intracoastal"
In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

- **September 24, 2015**

Motion made by Mr. Snedaker, seconded by Mr. Nesbitt, to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2015, meeting as presented. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

- **October 22, 2015**

Motion made by Mr. Snedaker, seconded by Mr. Ruth, to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2015, meeting as presented. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

- **January 28, 2015**

Motion made by Mr. Snedaker, seconded by Mr. Ruth, to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2015, meeting as presented. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Chair Jarrett advised that the City Clerk said they only have to have a majority of the appointed standing members to have a quorum.

III. Staff Liaison Report

- **Design – FS 8, FS 13, FS 54**

Mr. Dodd provided the update on FS #8 as follows:

- Still working on the design documents with architects
- Design at 40% complete
- Presented to Poinsettia and Crescent Park HOAs and Developmental Review Committee
- Will pay FDOT approximately \$60,000 to demolish and clear the site
- Finish up construction documents for bidding in November, 2016
- Start construction by February, 2017

[Mr. Mayer arrived]

- Estimated project costs are \$5.4 million
 - \$3.6 million for building, and \$928,000 for site work
 - Includes concrete and site preparation (paving, drainage, landscaping)
- The costs for demolition and cleanup are allocated at 2/3 for the State and 1/3 for the City (\$60,000 being the one third)

Members of the Committee requested a construction breakdown, noting they ask for it every month and never get it.

Chair Jarrett stated that they have limited funds and do not want Fire Bond money used to help build the Wave. Mr. Dodd commented that the Wave is helping because the Fire Bond is paying only for the costs of work that actually benefit the Fire Department, while the Wave is paying for overhead for managing the demolition contract. It was noted there is a lot of paving (parking, sidewalk), fence lines, swales, and other environmental costs.

It was noted that FDOT has different methods of bidding than the City.

Mr. Dodd provided the update on FS #13 as follows:

- Still at conceptual phase with ATAI consultant
- None of alternate sites are acceptable due to delay times
- Possibly do a renovation on FS #13 versus a new location
 - (Study done five years ago recommended not renovating)
 - Not enough money to build extra station (\$5 million) so they are looking at renovation options

Discussion included the following:

- Taxpayers expected new 50-year stations
- Still looking for answers from Antioch
 - There is nothing back yet from FDEP
- This is year 11 of an 8-year project
- Chief Hoecherl said from Sunrise Boulevard north to 21 Street, there is an issue with response time due to paving of bike lanes and planters in the center. A site visit is planned with the Director of Transportation and Mobility. The neighborhood had requested that they go from four lanes to two lanes to cut down on traffic and create more parking. Chief Hoecherl suggested paving over the planters.

Mr. Dodd provided the update on FS #54 as follows:

- At 70% completion of design with PGAL
- Expect final construction documents by mid May 2016
- Some issues exist with storm water management, have to move it away from building – have to examine entire area in order to get permitted
 - That may delay it by two months

- Problem resulted from higher land and insufficient catch basin capacity where needed (too much paving)
 - Storm water cannot be dumped directly into the Intracoastal unless it is pre-treated due to pollutants
- Land swap with Bokampers
 - Went to Planning and Zoning Board on March 16
 - Anticipate first reading at City Commission meeting on May 19, 2016
 - Second reading scheduled for May 3
 - Bidding in mid to late summer, construction start around end of 2016 or beginning of 2017
- Plans dated 2013 are different in square footage, but no substantial changes
- Are the materials being considered lower-maintenance?
 - Trying to use sustainable materials that will last 30-40 years
 - Materials cost more initially but require less upkeep and last longer

Discussion ensued on the fire stations needing replacement or renovations due to changes in the way they operate.

Chair Jarrett said the government is good about constructing new buildings with bond issues, but usually nothing is allocated for maintenance. For that reason also, they need to build better stations with better materials.

Since the Board is charged with overseeing the funds, Mr. Snedaker reiterated the need for an updated budget spreadsheet and an updated schedule printout.

Concern was expressed that the City Commission does not get to view the minutes until months after the meeting. Chair Jarrett pointed out that if there is no quorum, minutes cannot be approved and sent on to the City Commission. He mentioned that the most effective way to get information to the City Commission is to individually contact the Committee member's appointing Commissioner. That communication is not governed by Sunshine Law.

It was noted that the 825 East Sunrise Boulevard was sold, but since Fire Bond money was not used to buy it, they will not receive the proceeds from the sale.

IV. Communication to the City Commission

Motion made by Mr. Nesbitt, seconded by Mr. Snedaker, that the Fire Bond Committee expresses its concerns with the progress and costs of the three remaining fire stations to be built. We are concerned about discussion that FS #13 may be refurbished rather than rebuilt as proposed by the Fire Bond approved by the voters in 2004. Therefore, we ask for a meeting with the City Manager to express our concern to get more detailed information that has been requested but not forthcoming.

Mr. Nesbitt stated that the City Manager is ultimately responsible. If they do not get satisfaction by meeting with him, they can do another Communication and have a direct meeting with the City Commission.

Mr. Snedaker recalled that the Committee used to issue an annual report, but has not done so for four years. He felt a strong report was needed covering the last four years. It is helpful if members of the Committee attend the City Commission meeting to present the report.

Mr. Ruth asked Mr. Dodd to send out the information on the \$928,000 needed for FS #8.

Mr. Snedaker advised against "ranting" when they meet with the City Manager; they should have information and facts at the ready. Discussion ensued on what course of action to follow: a two-pronged approach (meet with City Manager while preparing report), or just meet with the City Manager.

Chair Jarrett suggested sending the previous reports to the new members of the Committee, and have all members bring suggestions for the next report at the next meeting. He described how they prepared the report in the past. He suggested meeting next month instead of waiting three months.

Mr. Snedaker suggested that members send their comments in a week after receiving the reports to Public Works and have them distribute all of it. When the meeting is held, the review will have already occurred, speeding up the process. Chair Jarrett said he can send out the previous reports. Scott Bayne said it can go out in the agenda discussion packet, but Chair Jarrett said they would have to get the packet earlier than they usually do.

Discussion ensued about what course of action to pursue regarding the motion on the floor. Mr. Nesbitt did not want to table the motion until the report is done, and Mr. Snedaker thought it was important to have factual information to present to the City Manager.

There was a discussion about the shrinking size of the stations and the escalating costs. Chief Hoecherl said they suggested to the City Manager to look at the Fire Assessment Fee as a way of filling in the deficit. Other cities that have that Fee dedicate a percentage of the revenue for fire house replacement. Mr. Nesbitt stated the Fee in Fort Lauderdale could only be used for emergency response (fire suppression), but not EMS. The Fee goes up every three years.

Vice Chair Meade wondered why they paid for temporary housing with the Bond. Chair Jarrett said that temporary housing is part of the process of building a new fire station. The least costly one is FS #49 (\$300,000), then a little more for FS #29, and the current one is close to \$1 million.

If cities do not have a Bond, they can build the expense into their Capital Budget. Mr. Snedaker explained that the voters approved the Bond, and there is a small amount in tax bills to repay the Bond. If all 10 stations are built, there will be a deficit in the bond – they will run over \$40 million and the City Commission will have to come up with money to fill the gap. It was noted that could be a question to ask the City Manager.

In a voice vote, the motion (Communication to the City Commission) passed unanimously (7-0).

Motion made by Mr. Snedaker, seconded by Mr. Ruth, that the Committee actively prepare a report and that they commit to having that report completed within a two-month period. If that requires additional meetings in the interim, that the Chairman be allowed to set that up. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Jarrett advised that if the previous reports are on the website, he will send a link to the members.

Motion made by Vice Chair Meade, seconded by Mr. Ruth, to have a meeting next month so that all members can bring their concerns to be addressed in the report. The report would need to be finalized and a person appointed to compile it. The following month, another meeting would be held to approve the final version of the report. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Chief Hoecherl stated his largest concern is that the project has not been finished in the time frame that the public expected. The last fire house that had a ribbon cutting was over three years ago (FS #46) – under time and under budget. However, there has been no progress since then on the three remaining stations, except that they got the property for #8.

Chief Hoecherl said FS #54 concerns him the most; the lease for that will be up in December, 2016. He continued they will explore alternative funding to finish the firehouses. Chief Hoecherl said they are trying to turn the site over now to park lands, rather than giving it back to the State park for an educational center. He is hoping for a swap, but did not know when he would hear anything.

Chief Hoecherl explained that not finishing the stations affects the public safety in the following way – Rio Vista is a red zone area for response times and they cannot meet their goals. That is one reason they desperately need a fire house in the southeast area. They try to reach the 10-minute, 22-second goal for fire suppression.

Chief Hoecherl stated that the alternative sites for FS #13 were on the west side of the Intracoastal, except for one on the east side, near Vista Mar.

In response to a question, Chief Hoecherl said they would evacuate the Barrier Island along with residents if a hurricane just above Category 1 hit came in from the east.

Chair Jarrett said when they reduce the number of bays in the Mainland stations, reserve apparatus would sit outside behind the Police Station. They were concerned what type of protection they would have.

Chief Hoecherl mentioned there is a land swap involving FS #49 being examined in Bob Dunckel's office, but he did not know the status of it.

Mr. Dodd referred to a document that have the current working numbers based on the design as it now stands. He will incorporate new data as the project proceeds. Out of the \$5.9 million, \$625,000 will be paid from outside the Fire Bond. Specifically, he referred to changes in signalization, paying for furniture, all project managers in the Public Works Department, and inspectors to oversee the project. From within the Fire Bond, \$4,538,335 is for the building and the site. \$3,609,784 is for the building itself, and \$928,551 for the site work. The building is 10,191 square feet. There are other costs that will be rolled into it: environmental assessment for the site at \$60,000; \$116,667 for the demolition of the building; \$463,533 for the design; and a construction administration oversight for the contractor of \$115,196.

Mr. Dodd continued that the environmental assessment will do sampling of the entire site looking for asbestos and other hazardous materials, which is necessary for permitting the site. If there are unforeseen conditions, the cost of the demolition will increase. He said they will have to remove the underground tanks, and that is included in the \$116,000, as long as there are no leaks.

Mr. Dodd said he would get the Project Manager to provide a breakdown all three stations, and send it to the Committee as soon as he can.

Chair Jarrett was directed to contact the City Manager and ask for the meeting, give the City Manager the bullet points for discussion, and start working on the annual report.

Motion made by Mr. Nesbitt, seconded by Mr. Ruth, to meet on April 28, 2016. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

V. Adjournment

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

[Transcribed by J. Rubin, Prototype, Inc.]